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UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: KOJI HAYASHI et al.

CASE: 200380-0290

SERIAL NO.: 09/705,247

FILED ON: November 2, 2000

FOR: FLEXIBLE CONNECTOR INTEGRALLY
HAVING TRANSMISSION LINE

) Group Art Unit: 2839

) Examiner: C. Prasad

) AMENDMENT AFTER
) FINAL OFFICE ACTION
) (Paper No. 11), MAILED
) December 23, 2002

FAX RECEIVED

MAR 24 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
BOX AF
WASHINGTON, DC 20231

Dear Sirs:

[X] AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AND PETITION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NECESSARY FEES: If any charges or fees must be paid in connection with the following Communication (including but not limited to the payment of issue fees), they may be paid out of our deposit account No. 12-0064. If this payment also requires a Petition, please construe this authorization to pay as the necessary Petition which is required to accompany the payment.

CERTIFICATE OF FAXING

I, Kelly Ray, hereby certify that this correspondence is being faxed to Examiner Chandrika Prasad at 703.872.9319 at Art Unit 2839 on the date of my signature.


Kelly Ray24 Mar 03
DateMICHAEL BEST & FRIEDRICH LLC
401 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611-4212
(312) 661-2100; Fax: (312) 661-0029Atty Dkt No. 200380-0290
U.S. Serial No. 09/705,247Please do not
enter in
amendment
CBL
3/26/03

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the Final Office Action (Paper No. 11), mailed December 23, 2002, please amend the application, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 6 and 7 as follows:

Claim 1 (Amended). A flexible connector having a fitting portion for being connected with a counterpart connector, said flexible connector comprising:

a plurality of flexible conductive wires arranged on a plane in parallel to each other and extending in a predetermined direction to have end portions;

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a flexible reinforcing metallic plate member placed at one side of said plane to reinforce said flexible conductive wires, said flexible reinforcing member having a contact portion;

an insulator holding said flexible conductive wires and said flexible reinforcing metallic plate member to make said fitting portion in cooperation with said end portions [of the flexible conductive wires] and said contact portion; and

coupling means connected to said insulator and said flexible reinforcing metallic plate member for mechanically coupling said insulator and said flexible conductive wires to said flexible reinforcing metallic plate member, said end portions and said contact portion being brought into contact with said counterpart connector when said fitting portion is connected with said counterpart connector.

Claim 2 (Original). A flexible connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said coupling means comprises:

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